

## Ghali warns of Haiti invasion

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The head of the United Nations said Tuesday that a U.N. mission to prepare for the peaceful departure of Haiti's military leaders has failed and the next step could be a U.S.-led invasion. U.N. envoy Rolf Knutson returned from the Dominican Republic on Monday after Haitian military leaders refused to meet with him. "We have not been successful because the military people in Haiti refused to talk with my special representative," U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali told reporters after he briefed the Security Council on the mission. "I will not continue this mission unless in the future I receive a mandate from the Security Council or if there is a drastic change in Haiti." Mr. Knutson's goal was to pave the way for a formal U.N. mission to negotiate the departure of Haiti's military leaders. The U.N. called on Haiti's military leaders to step down in a resolution adopted July 31 that also authorised a possible U.S.-led invasion to remove the military from power and return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to office. "We tried to have a peaceful implementation of resolution 930 but we have not been successful," Mr. Boutros-Ghali said.

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## Crisis over seized cargo ends

AMMAN (AP) — Saudi authorities have released cargo they seized from Jordan-bound vessels, ending a crisis that threatened already strained relations. A senior shipping official said Tuesday. Saban Muheisn, director of Jordan's Shipping Agents Association, said officials at the Saudi port of Jeddah have accepted to release the cargo after extensive contacts made during the past three weeks. "The cargo was released and loaded onto four vessels," Mr. Muheisn told the Associated Press. He said the ships would arrive separately at Aqaba on Tuesday and Wednesday. He declined to provide other details. Officials have said Saudi authorities on Aug. 12 forced three European vessels docked at Jeddah to unload Jordan-bound cargo, mainly food and other commodities imported by private traders here.

## Qadhafi mediates between Sudan, Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is trying to mediate an end to a bitter dispute between Egypt and Sudan by bringing together their leaders in Tripoli. Egyptian officials said Tuesday, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will take part in celebrations in the Libyan capital on Thursday to mark the 25th anniversary of Qadhafi's rise to power. And a meeting in Libya with his Sudanese counterpart Omar Al Bashir on the sidelines of the festivities has "not been ruled out," the official told AFP. Relations between the two countries have soured since the military junta seized power in Khartoum in a coup d'état in 1989.

## DFLP claims Gaza attack

DAMASCUS (AP) — A radical Palestinian faction Tuesday said it ambushed an Israeli patrol the night before in the Gaza Strip. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine quoted a statement by its military wing inside the occupied territories as saying a group of its fighters ambushed the patrol in the northern Gaza Strip using automatic guns. The Damascus-based DFLP said the fighters withdrew safely after directly hitting the Israeli targets, but gave no details of casualties. Israeli military sources told the Associated Press in Israel that it was "probably" the DFLP that was responsible for firing at several arm vehicles accompanying an Israeli car en route to the Netzerim settlement south of Gaza City. There were no injuries.

## Russian craft fails to dock with space station

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian cargo craft on Tuesday failed for the second time to dock with the orbiting Mir space station and the could force the abandonment of the current space mission, independent Russian television said. The television showed live pictures of the cargo craft — carrying water, food and technical equipment for the three-man crew — as it docked in the space station in the second failed docking attempt in four days.

## Owen urges big powers to unite on Bosnia

GENEVA (R) — European Union mediator Lord Owen on Tuesday urged the big powers to avoid divisions on Bosnia, saying a united front would push Bosnian Serbs into eventually accepting the peace plan they rejected in a weekend referendum. Lord Owen, co-chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY), said Western members of the five-national "contact group" that drew up the plan should listen to Russia.

## King, Mitterrand hold talks in Paris today

'Peace process progressing well'

PARIS (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday arrived in the French capital on a two-day visit to France at the invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, announced. According to Petra King Hussein will hold talks on bilateral relations and issues of common interest with President Mitterrand and senior French officials.

The King and Queen were welcomed at Paris's Orly airport by European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassoure.

The King will hold meetings Wednesday with President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur before flying to London late Thursday.

The King visited France in July last year, followed by visits to Amman by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé in November and February.

Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said the visits were proof of "the friendship and intensity of political contacts between the two countries."

France has "constantly backed Jordan on a financial level" and helped slash by \$1.21 billion Jordan's foreign debt in June, according to the foreign ministry.

King Hussein said in an

interview published Tuesday that Jordan might sign a peace agreement with Israel "very soon" but he refused to give a date.

The King, interviewed by the Israeli Yediot Ahronot newspaper during his visit to Bonn, would not be drawn on a visit to Jerusalem, saying "everything in good time."

"The process (between Israel and Jordan) is progressing well, really well. Major progress has been made in recent days and I am pleased with the discussions," he added.

The two neighbours had peace talks on July 18 and a week later the King signed a declaration with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ending 46 years of a state of war.

Before leaving Bonn for Paris the King discussed German aid to Jordan with Bonn Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger.

Mr. Spranger told the King that Germany, Jordan's biggest non-Arab donor country after the United States, would maintain its involvement in the region, the development ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Spranger also called on German companies to invest more in the Middle East in order to support the peace process.

Germany gave aid of about

44 million marks (\$28 million) to Jordan last year and wrote off Jordanian debt of 29.5 million marks (\$18.6 million).

The statement said the two countries planned to negotiate writing off a similar amount of debt in Bonn in October.

On Monday the King secured German support for the peace process in the Middle East during meetings with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Petra said the King briefed Mr. Spranger on Jordan's role in the peace process and developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

The King noted Jordan's great sacrifices over the past four decades, saying that Jordan has shouldered the major burden of the Palestine problem.

The King is accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princes Hamzeh and Hashem, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and member of the Upper House of Parliament Jamal Naser.

His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday arrive from Germany at Orly airport south of Paris. The King is on a



His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday arrive from Germany at Orly airport south of Paris. The King is on a one-day working visit to France, centred on the Middle East peace process (AFP photo).

## Musa relents to Israeli pressure to visit memorial



Amr Musa

Heights in exchange for full peace.

"Peace with Syria will require by necessity all for all. Let us not fool ourselves: there can be no peace without full withdrawal," he warned.

Mr. Peres repeated Israel's wish for secret as well as open talks with Syria to try and make progress.

The visit, "represents a promotion in the relations between Egypt and Israel," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Musa went on to meet five Arab members of the Knesset, or parliament.

Labour MP and deputy health minister Nawaf Masalha said: "We talked about Jerusalem and stressed that relations between Israel and Jordan should not be at the expense of the Palestinian's right to Jerusalem."

Mr. Musa was later to have talks with opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Wednesday, he was due to deliver a message from President Hosni Mubarak to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before meeting a senior Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem.

Israel has turned the mosque into a ghetto," he charged.

The comments came amid reports in the Palestinian press that the mosque in the occupied West Bank would be reopened next week with Jews granted most of the space under a plan to keep the two faiths apart.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs, which houses the mosque, has been closed since a Jewish settler murdered over 30 praying Muslims there on Feb. 25.

Israel has ordered building work in the complex in line with inquiry recommendations to provide separate entrances and prayer halls for Jews and Muslims.

"Instead of stopping settlers such as the assassin from entering the mosque, the

Palestinian people and the mosque believers are being punished," Mr. Shaath said.

He said the partitions being put up by Israel violated a United Nations resolution passed after the slaughter that urged protection for Palestinians. However, Resolution 904 makes no mention of worship in the mosque.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Matza called Tuesday for Jews to be prevented from praying in the tomb.

"We prefer that only Muslims should be allowed to pray in the mosque, and Jews to pray outside Muslim prayer time," he said.

Israeli MP who toured the complex Tuesday said the building work had not been finished.

Officials noted that no date has been set for the reopening of the complex which had been a mosque since the Arab conquest of the Holy Land in 638, apart from the Crusader period between 1100 and 1260.

The Bible records that in Hebron God made a covenant with Abraham as father of the chosen people. When he died he was buried alongside his wife in a cave there and later joined by their son Isaac and his son Jacob.

Jews and Muslims believe the fortress-like tomb, first constructed by Herod the Great around 20 BC, is built over the cave.

Israeli lawmakers said Tuesday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin apparently has decided to divide the cave area in two, with the Isaac prayer hall reserved for Muslims and the Abraham and Jacob prayer halls for Jews.

The other option would have been to designate different prayer times for Muslims and Jews.

Under the new arrangements, Jews would be kept out of the whole cave area on Muslim holidays, and on Jewish holidays Muslims would have to stay away, said the legislators, Yehoshua Matza and Benny Temkin.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, said the prime minister has not made a final decision yet whether worshippers should be kept apart by physical barriers or a separate timetable.

Noam Arnon, spokesman of the 450 Jewish settlers living among 80,000 Palestinians in Hebron, said Jewish worshippers would also not accept a division and would stage protests at the cave.

India dismissed the offer on Tuesday as an attempt to cover up Islamabad's secret atomic weapons programme.

A foreign ministry spokesman told reporters in New Delhi that India was still awaiting Pakistan's response to a proposal it made last January to sign a joint nuclear "no-first-use" pledge.

Pakistani leaders say the Indian proposal is irrelevant because Islamabad does not have nuclear weapons.

The Pakistani suggestion for a joint declaration denouncing nuclear weapons is an obvious bid to cover up its discomfiture and embarrassment now that Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme stands exposed by their own admission," the Indian spokesman said.

## 3 Hezbollah men, one Israeli soldier killed

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies)

Three Hezbollah commandos and one Israeli soldier were killed after an army patrol was ambushed by guerrillas in southern Lebanon late Monday, the pro-Iranian organisation said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Hezbollah said one of its members had been killed in fighting during the ambush. His body had been recovered, he added, claiming that there had been 16 Israeli casualties.

Two other Hezbollah fighters were killed in Kfardebian outside the occupied area during Israeli bombardments after the attack, the spokesman added.

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv said one soldier had been killed and two others wounded in the attack.

security sources, three guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades at an Israeli patrol made up of a Merkava tank and a military car in South Lebanon Monday night.

Surviving Israeli troops and allied South Lebanon Army militiamen encircled the attackers and killed them in a shootout that lasted 30 minutes.

The Israeli casualties had been immediately evacuated by helicopters, the sources added.

They said Israeli and SLA forces blasted suspected guerrilla bases and infiltration trails facing the enclave's central sector with tanks and 155mm Howitzer fire all night. No casualties were re-

ported from the bombardment.

Tension has been running high in South Lebanon since a June 2 Israeli air raid on a Hezbollah training base in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley where up to 50 recruits were reported killed. There have been almost daily clashes in the region.

Hezbollah, or party of God, leads a guerrilla war aimed at dislodging Israel from the 1,100-square-kilometre enclave that Israel carved out in 1985 to shield its northern flank from cross-border guerrilla assaults.

The strip, which has a predominantly Shiite population of 200,000, is routinely patrolled by 1,200 Israeli troops and 2,500 SLA militiamen.

John in 1985

## Egyptian court rejects anti-conference suit

CAIRO (Agencies) — A court on Tuesday rejected a suit by Muslim fundamentalists aimed at blocking next week's U.N. international population conference. The court said the case was outside its jurisdiction.

The lawyers who brought suit said they would file an immediate appeal, but it was unclear if it would be heard before the meeting starts next Sunday.

It was not expected Egyptian courts would rule against holding the conference, which has been in the planning stage for years and is expected to draw 15,000 participants from around the world.

Muslim fundamentalists have complained that the conference's draft proposals "omit abortion and sex education" and would encourage ... outside marriage.

The lawyers' suits argued that Egypt ... says its legal code runs counter to Islamic principles.

"Egypt is an Islamic country which shouldn't allow the conference to be held here," said Abdul Halim Mandour, one of the lawyers bringing suit.

Conference organisers have argued the conference document is only a proposal to be debated at the meeting. They also note that no country will be required to adopt programmes recommended by the conference.

The decision of the Administrative Judicial Court, read by Judge Abdul Aziz Hamada, said three suits concerning the conference were outside its jurisdiction since President Hosni Mubarak had invited the conference to Cairo and had the right to do so.

Two Islamic countries,

Saudi Arabia and Sudan, are boycotting the meeting.

Sudan's government, in announcing its boycott Monday night, urged other Muslim nations to also withdraw because the meeting would result in "the spread of immoral and irreligious values."

The Saudi representative at the United Nations in New York sent a message earlier this week "regretting they are not going to participate," an official at conference headquarters in Cairo said Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia and Sudan are the first countries known to withdraw from the conference.

Sudan's minister of social planning, Ali Osman Mohammad Taha, said in announcing the boycott that Sudan was trying to organise a forum for opponents of the draft action plan.

Jahran-e-Islam, representing Islamic radicals warned the conference was a "plot against Islam and should be strongly opposed."

"Iranian leaders should break their silence and unequivocally condemn this anti-Islamic move," it said.

Iranian Health Minister Alireza Marandi said on Sunday that Iran would take part in the conference to make its position known and put forward proposals to alter parts of the draft plan.

He also complained that the conference reflects the views of the United States, telling reporters "a considerable number" of conference resolutions reflect the policies that brought President ... on to office.

Abdul Basit Sabadrat, minister of culture and information, said that opposing the conference was "a kind of jihad (holy war) against corruption and the new hegemony which some seek to impose on us."

The complaints about the United States echoed statements by some Muslim radicals who have charged the U.S. government wants to spread what they regard as immoral Western values into the Islamic World.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who will attend the conference, has said the United States does not want to impose its views on other

countries, but feels that the population explosion is a danger to the entire world.

Meanwhile, Iran was urged to boycott the conference on Tuesday by two newspapers.

Jomhuri Islami, a daily close to Islamic hardliners, argued Iran's participation in the conference could be taken as a sign that the Islamic republic approved of the draft action plan.



Egyptian policemen Tuesday patrol in front of the International Conference Hall in Nasser City, a Cairo suburb. The conference from Sept. 5-13. An estimated 20,000 delegates from more than 150 countries are expected to attend the conference (AFP photo)

## 'Oman arrests linked to Muslim Brotherhood'

LONDON (R) — Scores of

Islamists arrested in Oman for allegedly trying to destabilise the Gulf oil state are close to the moderate Muslim Brotherhood, the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat said Tuesday.

The authors of the documents were "mainly Westerners and Western-educated people whose moral ideas differed" with those held in Islamic Iran, he said.

Several Shi'ite Muslim clergymen in Iran have also criticised the conference in recent days, saying it was a Western plot to liberalise abortion, homosexuality and premarital sex in the Islamic World.

A leading Iranian clergymen, Abbas Ali Amid Zanjani, denounced the conference on Sunday, charging that the forum promoted abortion.

Abortion has been strictly banned in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-Western Shah.

It said Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazali, 55, a religious leader from Oman's southern Dhofar province, was among more than 200 people whom the authorities said on Sunday they had arrested for organising sedition in the guise of Islam.

"They used the Islamic religion as a front to break national unity with which the Oman Muslim community is blessed," Oman said in a statement.

"Investigations have revealed connections in organisation and financial aspects with foreign groups.

Some of them will be referred to court to look into their case."

The statement said those arrested were members of a "secret organisation" but said many had already been freed.

The Saudi-owned Al Hayat said the crackdown surprised Islamic political circles in the Gulf because it involved sym-

pathisers of the Brotherhood, which is considered less militant than other Islamists who use violence for political ends.

The Muslim Brotherhood was for years the principal forum for political agitation to run Arab and other states with majority Muslim populations on strictly Islamic lines. It has often been sidelined in recent years by more radical groups.

Strongest perhaps in Egypt, it is largely tolerated by the authorities in that country which have waged a fierce campaign against violent Islamic militancy.

Al Hayat said the crackdown in Oman, where political parties are banned and dissent is seldom tolerated, started in mid-June with the arrest of a number of Egyptians and Jordanians, some university teachers.

It did not name any but a London-based group "Liberty for Muslim World" said in a fax to Reuters on Saturday it was concerned about the fate in Oman of an Egyptian academic, Ahmad Bahaa Khayri.

It said Mr. Khayri, who taught engineering at Sultan

Qaboos University, was first arrested on June 13 and had been detained indefinitely since June 26 after refusing to sign a document containing an alleged confession.

The London group alleged Mr. Khayri was tortured during his detention and said political prisoners in Oman are not allowed to appoint lawyers and can be held indefinitely without trial.

Al Hayat said Mr. Ghazali's businessman brother Salem was captured in a

swoop by the military who landed by helicopter within his palace grounds before spirit him away.

It said the Sheikh and another brother Hamed had since been released but Salem remained in jail.

Gulf diplomats said the arrests appeared to be limited although they included senior civil servants, including one official with the rank of minister under-secretary.

Al Hayat quoted a Gulf Islamist leader as describing the arrests as no more than a warning to Islamic militants that Oman was prepared to crack down hard if they went beyond certain limits.

## Yemenis suffer bread shortage

By Assem Abdul Majeed

Reuter

SANA — Bread is becoming increasingly scarce, and loaves have become smaller, for Yemenis trying to emerge from a devastating two-month civil war.

One citizen standing outside a bakery in central Sanaa, said he had been waiting for about three hours to get bread, the country's staple, for his family.

"Something has to be done. The fat cats (black marketeers) are getting fatter and nobody bothers about our suffering," another said.

During the war that ended on July 7 with victory for President Ali Abdullah Saleh against his southern secessionist opponents, the price of some staples rose by up to 200 per cent.

Prices of unsubsidised goods like sugar, cigarettes, butter and biscuits have started to come down though they remain well above pre-war levels.

But people are complaining they are unable to get the subsidised goods, distributed through the government machinery, blaming middlemen and black marketeers.

Bakers blame the shortage

on the government for failing to provide them with their normal quotas of flour, most of which is imported and then distributed at subsidised prices.

Officially, the price of the ordinary loaf remains unchanged at one rial (1/2 U.S. cents) but its weight and size have been cut by more than 50 per cent, citizens said.

The price of better quality bread, while its size has remained constant, has doubled to two rials (three cents) a loaf, citizens said. Either way people are getting half as much bread for their money.

"If as a member of the parliament I cannot get wheat for myself, how about others?" asked Ismail Abdul Rahim, a member of parliament.

Parliamentarians, whose remarks have been broadcast by Sanaa television, have launched unusually scathing attacks on the government for failing to ensure subsidised commodities were reaching the needy.

They blamed the crisis on government inefficiency, nepotism and corruption.

"People are fed up with this government. We want an urgent solution to the hungry bellies," Mr. Abdul Rahman

Economists say Yemen consumes about two million tonnes of wheat and flour annually, three-quarters of it imported.

The price of rice, another key component of the Yemeni diet, has also soared in recent weeks.

Muslim clerics have joined in the attacks. One preacher at Friday prayers, citing nepotism and corruption, criticised the effect on ordinary Yemenis.

## Fiery Kuwait opposition paper vows comeback

By William MacLean  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Kuwait's most outspoken newspaper, the opposition Al Talea, has suspended publication to resolve financial problems but its staff pledge it will reappear soon, promising greater vigilance as a pro-democracy watchdog.

"There are those who will be pleased, thinking they are dancing over the dead body of Al Talea," said Sami Al Munayes, publisher of the fiery 30-year-old weekly.

"They will be disappointed, because Al Talea will resume publication very soon — stronger and better," he wrote in an article announcing its temporary closure this month.

The liberal broadsheet, which staffers describe as the only opposition paper in the Gulf, is trying to solve a cash squeeze that has arisen due to lack of advertising revenue and partly because of what it sees as an ineffective ownership structure.

The newspaper campaigns for increased openness and accountability in government and for the exposure of former officials it says stole public funds in the 1980s and during the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation.

While many Kuwaiti newspapers criticise government ministers on some issues, they take care to avoid criticism that might be construed as libellous.

But Al Talea often appears

parties, and Al Talea plays an important role in the main political battles."

"We are very clear in criticism the Islamist political parties and MPs and ministers who represent them... personally as a senior journalist I am interested in bold news."

"It is very clear that Al Talea is the only one of its kind in the Gulf," he said.

Mr. Deyain, former deputy chief editor of the heavyweight daily Al Watan, is KDF assistant secretary general. Mr. Munayes, who owns Talea's copyright licence, is KDF secretary general in assembly sessions since.

Al Talea reappeared in January 1993 and now embraces a wider range of opposition views. But it remains the scourge of Islamic political groups, criticising their campaign to require the compulsory adherence of all the emirate's residents to strict Islamic behaviour and norms.

It has also taken the bold step of calling for changes to the way some ministries are allocated among members of the Sabah family, which has ruled the emirate for over 200 years.

The fingerprints of Al Talea are found all over Kuwaiti democracy," Ahmad Al Deyain, an adviser to the editors, told Reuters.

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parties, and Al Talea plays an important role in the main political battles."

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## Regent to open international gastro-intestinal conference

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday will open the Jordan Medico-Surgical Gastro-Intestinal Conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) which will be attended by about 300 delegates from Jordan and nine other Arab and foreign countries.

Many worry about the commitment to democracy, closed two news channels, deemed insufficient, and the Voice of news broadcasts him. A suspected informant died under interrogation.

With his main opponents, he is trying to win over the Islamic Resistance, Hamas, whose responsibility for a series of attacks against Israel arrested 40 for questioning. Mr. Arafat ordered to be released.

Local Fatah organisations are getting important jobs, them into preventing a secret police force has started to compete with the regular police. Between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Yousef are publicly known.

Mr. Arafat is blurring the lines of responsibility so that everyone, independent on him, but in volatile Gaza area.

"If there are tensions, it will be very difficult to compete with each other. There is no communication and no communication between them," said Mr. Arafat.

EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION: Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Abdul Qader Atrash, director of the regional office of the United Nations while the minister voiced the government's readiness to provide UNESCO Organisation (UNESCO) Tuesday review with facilities for its Amman office's activities (Peta photo)

orthopaedic surgery.

According to Dr. Abu Hassan, his society organised the meeting jointly with the Jordanian Surgical Society and the Jordanian Medical Society because of the common topics shared by these societies.

In addition to the general meetings, there will be two panel discussions: One recent developments in hepatitis C infections, and the other on updating the treatment of bleeding due to oesophageal varices, according to Dr. Abu Hassan who is also vice chairman of the three-day conference.

He said that the participants will also attend workshops at the King Hussein

Medical Centre and Al Bashir Hospital on laparoscopic surgery and the treatment of diseases of the common bile duct through endoscopy.

On the sidelines of the conference will be a three-day exhibition of medical equipment organised by major Arab and foreign firms.

Dr. Abu Hassan said the conference offers the participating specialists an opportunity to exchange expertise and launch cooperation.

Apart from the discussions, the participant will be accompanied to Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

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EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION: Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Abdul Qader Atrash, director of the regional office of the United Nations while the minister voiced the government's readiness to provide UNESCO Organisation (UNESCO) Tuesday review with facilities for its Amman office's activities (Peta photo)

## Panel finalises proposed income tax amendments

AMMAN (I.T.) — Proposed amendments to the income tax law, which have been just finalised by a special Finance Ministry committee, are aimed at increasing the number of taxpayers, re-examining regulations governing personal exemptions, encouraging investment, and simplifying tax collection procedures, according to

Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh.

In a statement quoted by Al Aswad Arabic daily Tuesday, the minister said the amendments were drafted by a 16-member committee which was charged with developing reforms.

The government aims at enabling the country to depend more on its own re-

sources by increasing the volume of local revenues and reducing dependence on foreign financing, said Mr. Gammoh.

According to the minister, the reforms are expected to achieve equity and social justice and at the same time guarantee sufficient income for the state.

The amendments, he

said, include clauses that reduce the taxation burdens on citizens whether married or single and take into account the cost of living index and social development.

Mr. Gammoh also said that the amendments would eventually do away with negative aspects of the law.

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## Haiti clergy in fear after slaying

**PONT-AU-PRINCE (R)** — The slaying of a clergyman loyal to ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide opened a new chapter of terror among church officials allied with the deposed populist priest.

But Western diplomats and other analysts in the capital saw little indication Monday that Father Jean-Marie Vincent's murder by suspected paramilitary forces would speed prospects of a U.S. invasion to restore him.

Fr. Vincent, a Liberation Theologist who fought for peasant rights, was shot five times outside his order's Port-Au-Prince residence Sunday night by a waiting group of men armed with automatic weapons.

The killing had the hallmarks of Haiti's paramilitary, a collection of forces which indirectly answers to the country's military command, which took control after ousting Mr. Aristide in a bloody 1991 coup, diplomats and Haitian analysts said.

Pro-Aristide church officials who have not gone into hiding braved the public spotlight Monday to condemn the killing, the first of a priest since 1985.

"Since the 1991 coup we

have done nothing but bury bodies," Sister Kresta Occident told reporters. "We call on the de facto authorities, the military and their thugs to return the country to constitutionality."

The murder of what the U.S. embassy called a "martyr for democracy" is the latest in what Western officials and Haitian activists say is a campaign by Haiti's military leaders and its supporters to wipe out any lingering support for Mr. Aristide, now in exile in the United States.

"Probably this killing is the beginning and we can expect that others will follow..." said Father Antoine Adrien, one of the few remaining outspoken church allies of Mr. Aristide.

"You cannot replace a Father Vincent," Fr. Adrien told Reuters. "He is dead; Antonie Izmerly is dead, Guy Malary is dead — we are losing people very important for us." Fr. Adrien told Reuters, referring to the pro-Democracy business leader executed in the middle of a mass. Fr. Adrien officiated and the assassinated Haitian justice minister.

Most of the church hierar-

chy in Haiti has aligned itself with the country's military rulers and against the return of Mr. Aristide, a champion of the poor who was expelled from his own Salesian Order accused of exalting class struggle.

Fr. Vincent's body was taken away by police and has not yet been released to allow the church to bury him, Fr. Adrien said. An evening prayer vigil Monday planned at the blood-stained spot where Fr. Vincent fell was postponed for the daylight hours.

The United States Monday denounced the murder of Fr. Vincent, whom it called a "martyr for democracy" and hinted that it had made a U.S.-led invasion of Haiti to help spark what could be an invasion unpopular in the United States.

Meanwhile, two top U.S.

officials left for Jamaica and the Dominican Republic Tuesday to discuss Haiti with Caribbean leaders and inspect enforcement of a U.N. trade embargo against Haiti's military government.

The flight by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch came a day after Washington deplored the murder of Fr. Vincent.

Mr. Talbott and Mr. Deutch, the second-ranking officials at their departments, were to attend a meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) in Kingston to discuss Haiti, then fly to the Dominican Republic.

In the Dominican Republic, they planned to inspect enforcement of a worldwide trade embargo against neighbouring Haiti along the 225-mile (362-kms) frontier that divides the two countries on the island of Hispaniola.

The United States has been

working for weeks to get

U.S. officials and recently

re-elected Dominican Presi-

dent Joaquin Balaguer.

Mr. Talbott and Mr.

Deutch were to meet sepa-

rately with Mr. Balaguer and

political opposition leader

Jose Francisco Pena Gomez

before flying back to

Washington late Tuesday night.

More than eighty U.N.

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Conductor Chung locked out of Paris Opera

PARIS (AFP) — Korean-born conductor Chung Myung-Whun, 41, was locked out of the Paris Opera Tuesday in spite of his ruling that reinstated his job as musical director. Mr. Chung, 41, accepted by lawyer Monique and a bailiff, was prevented from entering a room by Paris Opera director Jean-Paul Cluzel, who fired Mr. Chung on Aug. 1. At first, Mr. Cluzel had Mr. Chung out of the building at the Bastille. Mr. Chung managed to get in. Then Mr. Cluzel and opera's lawyers banished conductor from the rehearsal room. A Paris court Monday that opera management acted illegally in firing Mr. Chung and ordered him reinstated. Opera officials appealed the decision. The court said the management did not have the right to appoint another conductor for the rehearsals of the performances of Simon Boccanegra, which opens the 1994-1995 season at the Bastille Opera on Sept. 19. Australian conductor Simone Young has been staging rehearsals of Verdi's opera since Chung's dismissal last month. Mr. Chung, the son of the violinist Yehudi, refused to renege on his contract, which runs until Dec. 22, 1992 and ends in August 2000. Mr. Chung sued the opera management for its support for the plan.

"Our conviction is that at least some sanctions should be immediately lifted to reward Belgrade for its courageous approach," Mr. Kozyrev said in Zagreb Monday. "Mr. Chung was sacked because he was making progress in changing the terms of the contract. All the progress were rejected," the president said. The Gaullist administration of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur appointed a new minister to replace former Minister Bertrand in a last-minute exercise. Mr. Bertrand had Chung's predecessor Daniel Barenboim fitting.

At the same time U.N. officials voiced alarm over "appalling" conditions in refugee camps in Serb-held Croatia where thousands of Muslims have fled from the Bihać enclave in Bosnia. They said refugee children were suffering from diarrhea and dehydration, and there was a risk of measles epidemics at two improvised camps.

Mr. Kozyrev was quoted as saying: "Western policy towards Belgrade was hampered by 'bureaucratic inertia' and 'little flexibility.'"

"Very great reserve is being shown in the work with our Western partners," Mr. Kozyrev said on his way from Zagreb to Berlin after a brief tour of former Yugoslavia.

The United States, Britain, France and Germany, which drew up the peace plan along with the Russians, want Serb



Young Bosnian recruits wear branches on their heads as camouflage during military training in Sarajevo. After a few

## Russia differs with West over policy on Serbia

BUJE (YUGOSLAVIA) — Differences emerged Tuesday between Russia and the West over rewarding Serbian-led Yugoslavia for its break with Bosnian Serbs who have rejected the latest Bosnia peace plan.

Russia's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was quoted as saying: "Western governments had to show greater willingness to reward Belgrade for its support for the plan."

"Our conviction is that at least some sanctions should be immediately lifted to reward Belgrade for its courageous approach," Mr. Kozyrev said in Zagreb Monday.

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The United States, Britain, France and Germany, which drew up the peace plan along with the Russians, want Serb

community has dismissed the vote as an orchestrated sham and urged the Serbs to reverse their stance.

In the Serb-held Krajina region of Croatia, relief officials faced a growing crisis as thousands of Muslim refugees refused to return to the Bihać enclave in Bosnia.

An official of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the agency had begun vaccinations to try to stave off possible epidemic among children at improvised camps at Batnogaa and Turanji.

"The situation in the two camps is appalling. Health and sanitation conditions are poor and there is a real risk of outbreaks of epidemic diseases," said Thomas McDermott, UNICEF special representative for former Yugoslavia.

The United Nations wants 30,000 Muslim refugees scattered through Serb-held Croatia to return to the Bihać region which they fled last week after the collapse of breakaway Muslim forces fighting troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

"It is important for us not to give up prematurely even though we are in the midst of a civil war which is messy, which is confused and confusing," Mr. Akashi told reporters recently in Zagreb.

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Thousands of the refugees

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There were no immediate attempts by the banner-waving marchers to break through the crossing, barred by Croatian police with armoured vehicles mounted with water cannon.

The United Nations said Tuesday that Serbs and government forces continued to clash on battlefronts north of Sarajevo. A U.N. military spokesman said 198 explosions were reported at Briguja, near a contested supply route.

Even as U.N. commanders prepare plans to withdraw from Bosnia if an arms embargo against Muslim forces is lifted, United Nations envoy Yasushi Akashi is urging the world to stay the course with peacekeeping.

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Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev (right) is welcomed by Croatian President Franjo Tuđman prior to their talks in Zagreb (AFP photo)

## Protestants speak of civil war as IRA truce nears

BELFAST (R) — Angry Protestant hardliners said Tuesday an imminent ceasefire by IRA guerrillas would not bring Northern Ireland peace but full-scale, sectarian civil war.

The outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), a Protestant extremist group, said the province counted down to an unprecedented truce by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) that it was "a recipe for civil war."

Republican sources said the IRA was expected to announce within coming days an end to its 25-year-old war against British rule in Northern Ireland by giving concessions from the London government on a peace plan for the province.

The London-Dublin plan offers Sinn Fein entry into full political peace talks if its guerrilla allies give up violence for good.

But Republican sources suggest the impending truce may fall short of a full renunciation of violence, allowing an "defensive action" against an expected rampage by Protestant killer squads.

Protestants fiercely loyal to the British idea that the IRA's gesture might unlock another historic peace settlement to add to the Arab-Israeli reconciliation and the creation of a non-racial South Africa.

The UFF fuelled warning from Protestant militants, echoed by Protestant political leader Ian Paisley, followed the clearest hint yet that the IRA is on the point of declaring a tactical halt to its campaign of violence in a bid for political legitimacy.

The IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, said Monday it had pressed guerrilla commanders to change tactics in their fight for a united Ireland and expected a "speedy response."

This was a clear signal to set the clocks ticking on a truce announcement, which Republican sources in Ireland say could come as early as Tuesday evening.

The statement by Sinn Fein ahead of a rumoured ceasefire by the guerrilla group in Northern Ireland.

Government officials said they had no news about the widely-expected ceasefire.

"There is no question of any changes in that policy and no question of concessions to anyone," a senior official said.

The British officials said the policy of the British and Irish governments over Northern Ireland was "firmly rooted" in a joint peace plan formulated last December which offers Sinn Fein a place at talks on Northern Ireland's political future if the IRA lays down arms permanently.

Echoing the UFF civil war threat, Rev. Paisley said any hint of a "sell-out" to the IRA would put the province in its gravest danger since it was partitioned from the rest of Ireland seven decades ago.

"If he (Adams) comes out with a ceasefire, then the people of Northern Ireland will know they have been sacrificed on the altar of political expediency and that will bring about the most serious situation Ulster has had since 1920," Rev. Paisley said.

Irish unification would turn the Protestants, a majority in Northern Ireland, into a minority in a predominantly Catholic state.

Rev. Paisley warned Northern Ireland was "being propelled into a civil war situation by what the government is doing" and accused Britain of "lying, cheating and deceit" about preliminary contacts with the IRA.

Britain said Tuesday there was no question it would offer concessions to the Irish Republican Army or its political

of the Ulster conflict, it is a recipe for civil war," said the group, whose fighters target the Roman Catholic national community from which the IRA draws support.

Rev. Paisley, the strident voice of unbending Protestant "unionism," accused the British government of stitching a behind-the-scenes deal that promises to grant the IRA's wish for an Ireland united under Dublin's rule.

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## U.N. praises Rwanda repatriation talks, but Hutu cooperation needed

GOMA, Zaire (AP) — Talks between Zaire and Rwanda's Tutsi-led government aimed at persuading more than 1 million Hutu refugees to go home to Rwanda are an encouraging sign, the United Nations said Tuesday.

But a U.N. official said there could be no quick repatriation without cooperation from Rwanda's defeated government led by Hutu ex-

rebels.

UNHCR's disposal by the provincial governor.

The UNHCR has no mandate to buy or rent land, but the problem can sometimes be overcome with the assistance of "more flexible" aid agencies, according to UNHCR officials.

Mr. Janowski said that if a new exodus of refugees from Rwanda's Hutu majority began the UNHCR would be in serious trouble.

Rwanda's new government has begun posting civilian officials in the southwestern security zone formerly controlled by French troops who have handed over to a U.N. force, U.N. representatives said Tuesday.

Immigration and customs officials have been sent to points along the southwestern border with Zaire, the new force commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) Major General Guy Toussaint said Tuesday.

The government has also opened centres to receive former government troops from the Hutu majority who want to join a new army, U.N. staff said.

The new security forces will gradually move into the zone in small numbers, mainly to guard strategic and sensitive installations like power stations. The zone, covering about a fifth of the country, was set up by French troops in June to stem ethnic bloodletting that began in April.

Despite the violence, hunger and disease in Goma's teeming camps, most Hutu refugees are wary, too, of reprisals by the victorious Rwandan Patriotic Front soldiers, should they return home.

Up to 500,000 mostly Tutsi civilians were massacred by troops of the former government and civilian death squads after former President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in an April 6 plane crash. Opposition Hutus

spokesman Kris Janowski admitted that the new camp was really too far and will be difficult to supply given the state of the roads. These will not improve when the rainy season begins in mid-September.

The decision to open the new camp for some 80,000 people was taken when the German company which owns the camp, Pharmakina, made it available after talks on installing a camp nearer the town collapsed because of disputes over land ownership rights.

Mr. Janowski said only 5,000 people were settled at the Hongo camp, about 12 kilometres from Bukavu, instead of the 80,000 which could have camped there, because landholders were asking for payment, though the site was put at the

king's disposal.

Mr. Janowski said that when the three presidents met King Letsie in Pretoria Thursday they merely asked that "legality and constitutional party democracy" be restored in Lesotho for a year, said by telephone from the Lesotho capital Maseru.

The monarch has been given until Thursday by South African President Nelson Mandela and his Zimbawean counterparts Robert Mugabe and Quett Masire to reinstate Mr. Mokhele's government, which won power 16 months ago in Lesotho's first democratic elections in two decades.

The mastermind who shot and bombed his way to notoriety in the 1970s and 1980s said he was still an "internationalist" revolutionary and promised he would not turn informer and betray the unnamed governments and friends who had helped him.

French officials had no immediate reaction to the claims in the statements by the Venezuelan born as Illich Ramirez Sanchez.

Carlos, who was seized in Paris in mid-August and flown to Paris, complained about his image in media reports, saying he was no alcoholic and had not been undergoing surgery to remove fat from his waist when he was captured.

"Why do people try to make me out as an alcoholic? All this is wrong, I've never been a drunkard . . .," he said.

Government officials said they had no news about the widely-expected ceasefire.

"There is no question of any changes in that policy and no question of concessions to anyone," a senior official said.

The British officials said the policy of the British and Irish governments over Northern Ireland was "firmly rooted" in a joint peace plan formulated last December which offers Sinn Fein a place at talks on Northern Ireland's political future if the IRA lays down arms permanently.

The United States is considering putting together a major investment package for Northern Ireland if an expected IRA ceasefire is declared and peace returns to the province, the Irish Times reported Tuesday.

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## Jordan Times

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### Rift must stop

THE ESCALATING rift between Algeria and Morocco appears to be getting out of control with the former deciding to break off diplomatic relations. With Algerian authorities now mobilising their country's entire transport network to bring home Algerian citizens currently in Morocco after Rabat slapped a visa requirement on them, Morocco is faced with a similar problem vis-a-vis its own people presently in Algeria.

The current crisis between the two North African Arab countries apparently started when Moroccan police arrested two French nationals of Algerian origin as suspects in the slaying of two Spanish tourists and consequently imposed a visa requirement on all Algerians, including third country nationals of Algerian background. Algeria retaliated by closing its borders with Morocco.

Normally the arrest of nationals of a country by another does not lead to the kind of actions and reactions that both Morocco and Algeria have resorted to. In the first place, whether the detained French-Algerian persons would be found guilty or not after they are duly tried, Morocco has clearly overreacted by imposing visa requirements on all Algerians presently in Morocco, estimated to be about three million. There is no room for guilt by association under international norms and under the worst scenario the affected Algerians are innocent people who should not be arbitrarily deported from the country. Algeria in turn overreacted also by closing its frontier posts with its neighbour Arab country and by so doing further exacerbated the conflict.

But what adds fuel to fire is the reported mistreatment of nationals of the two countries by the police authorities in both states. These developments suggest that something deeper beneath the surface may have been the real cause of the problem between Rabat and Algeria. There is every reason to suspect that political differences between them over the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara is at the heart of the lingering crisis of confidence between them. Algerian President Liamine Zeroual last week was reported to have criticised Moroccan "seizure" of this territory by saying that there was still an "illegally occupied country" in Africa. It is inconceivable that Algeria would deliberately seek to add to its nearly three-year-old civil strife by heating up differences with Morocco but skeptics may want to advance such theories anyway. Whatever the real reasons behind the worsening of relations, however, one thing is clear: What is happening should not have happened and sincere efforts must be exerted by the leaderships of both countries to halt the deterioration in ties. It is unbecoming of two neighbourly and brotherly Arab states to allow their relations to descend to the levels they have reached in the past week. A summit between King Hassan and President Zeroual is therefore urgently called for to contain the growing crisis and, hopefully, solve the problem once and for all.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE start of every academic year, our society is faced with the problem of enrollment of young men and women in Jordanian universities, something which is considered a luxury not available to the majority of people, said Taher Al-Adwan, a columnist in *Al-Dustour* daily. Students with high grades sometimes find themselves unable to enrol at the state universities to study medicine or engineering at a time when other students with lower grades are being allowed to take their seats at these faculties, claimed the writer. The private universities could be an alternative that would help ease the frustration of the young people but then they are unable to enrol in them due to their high fees, said the writer. To solve the problem, the state-owned universities could accept additional numbers of students each year while the private universities could reduce their fees to a degree that would allow students from limited income families to enrol in them, said the writer. As long as the Jordanian people as a whole are in one way or another contributing towards covering these universities expenses, he said, one expects these institutions to open their doors to the promising students from all sectors.

JORDAN AND Turkey speak the same language and are both in the same boat facing the consequences of the embargo imposed on Iraq over the past four years, said Tareq Masa'weh with reference to the just concluded visit to Jordan by Turkish President Suleiman Demirel. Perhaps the press conference His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Demirel held at the end of the brief visit was much more important than it looked, simply because it reflected the two sides' views concerning the sanctions on Iraq on the one

side and, on the other, according to the columnist in *Al-Rai*, Iraq is very important for Turkey and Jordan as a neighbour and supporter in times of need, and this was manifested in the two leaders' views which called for an immediate end of the suffering of the Iraqi people and the end of sanctions.

## Politics, not religion, fuelling opposition to Cairo conference

From G.H. Jansen

THE EGYPTIAN Islamists, having dubbed the International Conference on Population and Development, starting in Cairo on Sept. 5, the "licentious conference" have shifted the basis of their opposition to it from Islam to morality—that birth control leads to promiscuity. That change was just as well because Islam, over the centuries, has never objected to birth control and, therefore, is not, as alleged by a group of Egyptian lawyers who are trying to stop the conference altogether, contrary to the principles of Islam.

Indeed, if the lawyers had bothered to study Islamic law on the subject of birth control, they would have discovered that all Muslim interpretations of religious law were unanimous in permitting contraception. This is confirmed in a detailed study of the law and practice of contraception in Islam given in "Sex and Society in Islam" by the Cambridge University scholar B. Musallam, which should be required reading for all Islamists, especially those attacking contraception.

Only a statement in the Holy Koran itself prohibiting contraception would give full canonical authority to the Islamist opposition to it. But the Koran says nothing on the subject. The next most authoritative religious source would be the "hadith," the "traditions" of what the Prophet Muhammad said and did.

According to contemporary Muslim scholars few of these can be taken as totally authentic and while they contain several references to the most widely used contraceptive practice in the seventh century, coitus interruptus, they are not very convincing. There is one that is clearly condemnatory: "They asked him about coitus interruptus and the Prophet answered, 'it is hidden infanticide'."

There are several other "hadith" that are equally permissive: "We used to practice coitus interruptus during the Prophet's lifetime. News of this reached him and he did not forbid us" and "the Prophet said, 'practice coitus interruptus with the woman if you so wish, for she will receive what has been predestined for her'."

and "we asked the Prophet about it. He replied, 'you do not have to

hesitate, for God has pre-destined what is to be created until Judgement Day'."

The mere fact that the Prophet's companions could freely discuss this very intimate subject with him means that birth control was an accepted fact at that time.

The great Islamic jurists like Al Ghazali, in the 11th century, and Ibn Taimiya in the 14th century accepted the fact of contraception and provided reasons for the practice. Al Ghazali favoured the economic reason: A large family could tempt men into illegal transactions to meet their increased responsibilities and, besides, "material well-being is an aid to religion."

Contraception was accepted by all four of the classical legal schools of Sunni jurisprudence and by the Shiites as well.

The Hanbalis, the strictest of these schools, went so far as to say that coitus interruptus was mandatory in enemy territory so that Muslim children would not be born into slavery.

Birth control was commonly practised by both men and women in the classical age of Islam. Both chemical and mechanical

means were used and in the standard texts of Arabic medicine references to female contraceptives outnumber those for men by four to one. This is true in the ninth century text entitled, "Hawi", of the great Islamic medical scientist Razi, known to Europe as Rhazes, where of 50 prescriptions for contraceptives 31 were for women, and in the Canon of the even more famous Ibn Sina, or Avicenna, of the 10th century, where of the 20 contraception prescriptions given, 10 were for women. Razi and Avicenna even accepted abortion as necessary in certain cases. Modern day medical scientists consulted about these remedies stated that about 10 per cent of the chemical means and almost all of the mechanical methods were effective and, indeed, used the same principles as contemporary means.

The Islamists have used the authority of Al Azhar University, the most prestigious Islamic institution, to buttress their case. Under the compulsion of the militants to follow their policy line, the university has in the past few years gone against the Egyptian government on certain key

issues, including that of contraception. Thus, while the government is one of the main sponsors of the Cairo conference and has in place a birth control programme, Al Azhar opposes both. Although Al Azhar is a governmental institution and its head, Sheikh Al Azhar, is supposed to say what he is told to say, this is not the case.

In the time of President Gamal Abdul Nasser, who strongly backed contraception to promote the economic well-being of Egypt's exploding population. Sheikh Al Azhar issued a formal fatwa stating that Islam did not disapprove of contraception (he could hardly have said anything else in face of the overwhelming historical evidence). But Nasser's successor, the conservative President Anwar Sadat, permitted Sheikh Al Azhar to issue another fatwa flatly contradicting the earlier one. Unfortunately for Al Azhar it is caught between on this matter because during the time of Nasser an institute for the propagation of family planning was established in Al Azhar itself and is still active. It is labelled "a nest of corruption" by opponents.

The Islamists' objection to birth control is political rather than religious. It springs from the militants' deep-rooted suspicions of Western intentions. These suspicions were born during the struggle of Muslim countries for liberation from Western colonialism and continue until the present day because these countries largely remain under Western domination.

Accordingly, birth control is seen by them as a deep-laid genocidal plot against Muslims to weaken them by reducing their numbers.

These genocidal suspicions are widespread in the Indian Muslim community. Since the world population of Muslims is almost one billion and increasing rapidly, these fears are imaginary and groundless. The Islamists conveniently ignore the fact that the two largest Muslim countries, Indonesia and Bangladesh, both of them devoutly Islamic, have accepted and successfully implemented birth control programmes for economic reasons. And these programmes have not weakened these countries but enabled them to improve the economic situation of their people.

## Clinton Cuba policy pleases conservatives

By Peter Bate  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Bill Clinton's hardball tactics against Cuba's Communist regime may dismay his liberal supporters but they are winning kudos from some of his fiercest conservative critics.

"The administration's announcement on isolating Castro will send a strong message to the Cuban people that we are with them in their struggle for freedom," Mr. Mack said.

Mr. Clinton's get-tough measures included ending a 28-year policy of welcoming virtually every Cuban who sought political asylum.

To stem the tide of boat people now fleeing Cuba, Mr. Clinton announced Friday the coast guard would intercept refugees and send them to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

He said Mr. Castro could not dictate U.S. immigration policy.

Removing the welcome mat, however, has so far failed to dissuade thousands of Cubans from trying to cross a dangerous 145-km strait to Florida on rickety rafts.

A State Department official, who asked not to be named, said the new measures could take more time to work.

"Our experience in the case of Haitian boat people suggests that restrictions take a while to work," he

said.

While conservatives and Cuban expatriates had long hoped Mr. Clinton would use the United States' might to strong-arm Castro into reforming his 35-year-old regime, the more liberal analysts still expect reform to come through dialogue.

"The administration still

needs to map out a strategy to deal with Cuba in which all parties involved will have to participate," said former U.S. official Bernard Aronson.

Mr. Aronson, a former assistant secretary for inter-American affairs in the Bush and Clinton administrations, said some of the

decisions regarding refugees could lead to more trouble.

"The administration is

acting on the assumption that they will prevent people from leaving Cuba. But if it doesn't, we'll have a substantial refugee problem," he told Reuters.

Larry Birns, head of the

labor council on hemispheric affairs, said Mr. Clinton's moves will only increase the exodus.

"The root cause of this

problem is economic, not political," Mr. Birns said.

"The Clinton administration

has once again proven its unerring instinct to do the wrong thing."

Mr. Birns argued that

Mr. Castro was finally

doing what every U.S.

administration had

pressured him to do for the past

three decades — to let his

people go.

"This is another example

of double-standard diplo-

maty," Mr. Birns said.

China, which has a far

worse record on human

rights abuses, gets Most-

Favoured-Nation status

while Cuba has been under

an embargo for 32 years."

The State Department

official acknowledged that

the United States has acted

differently when dealing

with other Communist regi-

mes but argued that Cuba's

case was singular.

"We want to see real

political and economic re-

forms in Cuba, not mere

statements.

Castro has

made changes in the past

but he's always backtracked

on them," said the official.

"We're not saying that he

has to be on the next boat

out, but we want to see real

adjusting before we consider

adjusting our policies."

## France and Algeria: When the status quo is no longer supportable

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The United States has Sudan on its list of outlaw states, saying that it sponsors Islamic fundamentalist terrorism.

France finds that a logical reason for getting on better terms with Sudan. Who better to talk with about the problem of terrorism than those in a position, if not to call it off, at least to damp it down?

A number of large conclusions have been drawn from Sudan's handing over of Carlos the terrorist to French justice. The principal significance, however, is what it reveals — or, better, confirms — about French foreign policy.

One of the two major preoccupations of French policy today is Islamic fundamentalism. (The other is France's relationship with Germany, in the context of Europe's development).

Algeria, which until 1962 was a *département* of France itself, not a colony, retains a special relationship with France in terms of the legal status of Algerians in France and their right to travel between the countries.

France also has considerable investment in Algerian economy, and until now has retained a significant influence in Algerian education and cultural life.

All of this is jeopardised

by the attempt of extreme Islamists to drive all foreigners and foreign influences out of Algeria.

The French also fear that a fundamentalist victory would inspire not only much of the French-speaking intellectual and middle classes to look for refuge in France, but also thousands of ordinary Algerians who do not want to live in a Paris restaurant

— but in influencing them.

The supposed theoretician of Sudan's military government is a Paris- and London-trained Muslim intellectual and academic, Hassan Touabi, now dean of the Khartoum University Law School, formerly a high government official. He is accused by many in the West, as well as by the Algerian and some other secular Arab governments, of being an ideologist of foreign policy.

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France also has considerable investment in Algerian economy, and until now has retained a significant influence in Algerian education and cultural life.

However, the French are also realising. There have been complications and ambiguous transactions

between the two countries. The French believe that he is at least a man of the West

## LETTERS



## Investment and management of human resources are of critical importance—UNCTAD

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — A World Investment Report issued by UNCTAD concludes that investment and management of human resources are of "critical importance" to governments and transnational corporations (TNCs).

The report notes that "unprecedented" global competition has brought reconsideration of sources of competitive advantages, and "undoubtedly, the quality of human resources is at the centre of more competitive advantages, as created assets... increasingly play a key role in advancing economic development."

But the distinctive capabilities of TNCs derive to a great extent from their ability to recruit, train and motivate creative individuals. "Investment in, and the effective use and management of, human resources are, therefore, of critical — perhaps of the most critical — importance

for both governments and TNCs in today's world."

This means that "upgrading of human resources should occupy a central place in the policies of governments intent on promoting economic development." And any such policy will automatically, in principle, make a country more attractive to foreign investors.

The report also comments that "Perhaps the greatest potential for human resource development lies in closer cooperative relationships between TNCs, trade unions and governments in the identification of skill shortages, training priorities and appropriate policy initiatives."

The World Investment Report 1994 by the Division on Transnational Corporations and Investments of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) notes that "today, the response to unem-

ployment must take place against the background of a more integrated world economy, and one in which TNCs (transnational corporations) are, inevitably, among the more important vehicles through which any chosen agenda for economic stability and prosperity takes effect."

Foreign investment is naturally among TNCs' leading activities, and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows began recovering in 1993, reaching \$195 billion after a two-year decline from \$232 billion in 1990 to only \$171 billion in 1992.

The decline of world FDI outflows during 1991 and 1992 consisted primarily of reduced outflows from Japan and, to a lesser extent, from some western European countries, mainly to the United States," the report says.

FDI "outflows from Germany and Japan have not yet started to recover, but they stopped decreasing."

## Japan unemployment worsens

TOKYO (R) — Japan's unemployment rate rose to its highest level in seven years in July, showing that the labour market is still haunted by the nation's worst postwar recession and unlikely to recover in the near future.

The government's Management and Coordination Agency announced Tuesday that the number of jobless people totalled 1.88 million in July, up from 1.83 million in June and 1.59 million a year earlier.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in July stood at three per cent, up from 2.9 per cent in June and 2.5 per cent a year before. The rate was last at three per cent in June, 1987, when the economy was going through a

shump caused by the strong yen.

"It is certain that the economy is heading towards recovery, but the unemployment rate is a lagging indicator and moves behind the actual economy," chief cabinet secretary Kozo Igarashi told reporters soon after the release of the data.

"For the time being, severe conditions are expected to continue," he said.

Stabilising the labour market is a very important issue and the government will continue to take steps to do so, Mr. Igarashi added.

Analysts said it normally took six months to a year for the effects of economic improvements to show up in the unemployment data and pre-

dicted the jobless rate might soon surpass its record high of 3.1 per cent reached in May, 1987.

Toshiki Masui, a Tokai Bank economist, said the rate could climb as high as 3.3 per cent, but added the tempo of the increase should be moderate.

The underlying trend in the jobless data is moving sideways or slightly higher," Mr. Masui said.

"It is uncertain whether the nation's unemployment rate is moving upwards or coming to a turning point," a Management and Coordination Agency official told a briefing.

"What I can say now is that the jobless rate has been hovering at a high level since late last year," said Mr. Bergsten.

For the time being, severe conditions are expected to continue," he said.

Stabilising the labour market is a very important issue and the government will continue to take steps to do so, Mr. Igarashi added.

Analysts said it normally took six months to a year for the effects of economic improvements to show up in the unemployment data and pre-

## OECD nudges Bundesbank, urges German fiscal reforms

BONN (R) — Germany's prospects for long-term economic growth and the survival of its respected "social market" economic model are threatened by excessive costs and lagging innovation in industry, the OECD has said.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said it was optimistic for growth in Europe's powerhouse economy and gave the government good marks on fiscal reforms.

In its annual report on Germany, the 23-nation task force said the Bundesbank had room to lower its leading interest rates further

and give a boost to domestic investment, which was still lagging behind export demand.

The German economy is expected to recover further, Dieter Menke, the OECD representative in Bonn, said in presenting the report at a news conference.

"Industry is picking up, but the demand is coming from exports while domestic demand remains weak," he pointed out.

The Bundesbank is making progress on inflation, although M3 money supply, its key indicator, is overshooting its target range. But taking these developments into consideration, "there

may be some further scope for reductions to give support to recovery," the OECD said.

The OECD forecast German gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 1.8 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent next year. This is less optimistic than the most recent government predictions, which see German GDP growth of up to 2.5 per cent this year.

The report sees German unemployment at around 10 per cent this year and next year and pan-German inflation of 3.1 per cent in 1993 and 1.9 per cent in 1995.

The report reviews efforts

Germany has taken to pull out of recession, takes a critical look at monetary and fiscal policies and suggests action that could be taken to improve German industry's competitiveness.

"A clear and consistent strategy is needed for the second half of the decade in order to scale back the public sector and alleviate the fiscal burden," the report said.

The government should phase out the "solidarity tax" — a 7.5 per cent surcharge on income tax bills to be reintroduced in January — and cut subsidies to industry, privatise more state holdings, and better target social welfare

benefits, it said.

It should improve the environment for innovative activity, lower regulatory barriers on new activities and speed up plant approval procedures.

"In such area Germany has fallen behind not only the United States and Japan, but also such European countries as Switzerland, the United Kingdom and France," the OECD said.

It also called for more competition in telecommunications and an opening of energy markets, where German prices are among the highest in the OECD, and extending opening hours in the retail sector.

and gain their respect. Don't take any risks when dealing with outsiders on an important assignment.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have good ideas which should be carried through later in the day for best results. Make this a worthwhile day to get many things done.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get an early start to handle important business matters so you can engage in social activities later in the day with close friends.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Wait until the afternoon before dealing with a difficult associate for best results. Plan the future to get all your desires.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You arise feeling frustrated, but by knowing the reason for this, you soon get back on the beam and accomplish much to your satisfaction.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) If you try to relax you can soon relieve pressure which seems intolerable. Avoid a troublemaker who is out for your head.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Try to help others now who need assistance and later they lend you a helping hand. Avoid the temptation to spend too much money.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Know what is expected of you by higher-ups

indicated that among concerns on the commercial front was protectionism in China's trade regime.

"Protected industries will never lead the world," Mr. Brown said, pointing specifically to Beijing's reluctance to open up its service industry.

He criticised China's intellectual property protection laws as inadequate and lacking enforcement, warning such a situation not only made the Chinese market unattractive.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

We close out this month on a high planetary note with a triple trine that energizes all our activities and points us in the right direction. Your different ideas could prove upsetting to others.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Being patient at your tasks brings fine results now. Use more care in handling routines. Show that you have wisdom to handle any situation.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You may not get the financial results you want in the morning but later they materialize, so be calm and they will develop.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You arise feeling frustrated, but by knowing the reason for this, you soon get back on the beam and accomplish much to your satisfaction.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) If you try to relax you can soon relieve pressure which seems intolerable. Avoid a troublemaker who is out for your head.

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**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Know what is expected of you by higher-ups

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

## Oil keeps Libya afloat despite sanctions

NICOSIA (AFP) — Black gold has been the main economic force behind Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi helping him build his 25-year-old regime and keeping his country afloat despite tough U.N. sanctions.

As he celebrates Thursday the anniversary of the 1969 coup which brought him to power, he may well have occasion to be grateful for his oil reserves.

The oil boom in the 1970s just after he seized power provided the revenue to lay down Libya's current infrastructure.

And although the sanctions imposed in April 1992 have created economic hardship, the blow has been tempered because oil exports escaped the embargo.

But technical problems resulting from the embargo have forced down oil production, experts say. Tripoli now produces less than 1.4 billion barrels per day (b/d) compared with 1.7 b/d in 1992, according to the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a weekly review published in Cyprus.

The embargo was slapped on Tripoli after it refused to hand over suspects in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988, which killed 270 people, and the 1989 bombing of a French plane over Niger in which 170 people died.

Last December the United Nations also froze certain Libyan assets abroad and imposed an embargo on oil-related equipment.

Diplomats in Tripoli say the West is unlikely to extend the embargo to oil exports because many European countries would be hit, including Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Germany.

Officially Libya's gross domestic product (GDP) is put at four billion dinars, or \$13 billion at the official rate of \$3.37 to the dinar, oil revenues accounting for nearly all of it.

The state spends some \$6 billion on imports of essential goods, which are subsidised and sold at a quarter of their real value.

Tripoli has substantially cut military expenditure since 1990 and financial support for

agriculture, and a huge canal 4,000 kilometres long is being built at a cost of \$2.5 billion.

Some 1.5 million children now go to school compared with 300,000.

But Libya's planes remain grounded because of the embargo and Libyans can only leave the country by road via Egypt or Tunisia, or by sea via Malta.

Officials estimate the embargo has cost Libya about \$3 billion in lost revenue.

And they blame it for the deaths of more than 1,600 people in road accidents and of 350 babies and 150 mothers, due to a shortage of medicines.

Libya has also not paid off its military debts to Russia since Moscow stopped supporting Tripoli at the United Nations.

But its foreign debt "cannot be enormous," according to one Western diplomat in Tripoli.

Meanwhile Col. Qadhafi continues to call for the embargo to be lifted, gaining the support of some Arab and African countries.

## U.S., China sign \$5b of deals

BEIJING (AFP) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown ended official talks here Tuesday, hailing the success of Washington's new policy of commercial engagement with China in securing nearly \$5 billion worth of deals.

Mr. Brown, who arrived Saturday at the head of a delegation of 24 U.S. corporate leaders, also attributed China's agreement Tuesday to resume a stalled bilateral human rights dialogue to the U.S. administration's "pragmatic, common sense policy" that has, since May, refocused relations on to

trade.

U.S. companies have signed deals worth "nearly \$5 billion" during the trip, said Mr. Brown, the most senior

U.S. official to visit here since President Bill Clinton's May decision to delink China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade status from human rights.

Embassy officials put the precise figure at \$4.8 billion, of which some \$2 billion had direct U.S. content, but gave no further details.

The deals assure "continued economic growth and the creation of jobs in the United States and, just as important, ensure the continued development that is taking place in China," said Mr. Brown.

More deals are expected to be signed during the delegation's visits to the eastern metropolis and the southern city of Guangzhou.

Mr. Brown said Tuesday's

agreement proved that "commercial engagement has had a greater effect than the threat of commercial disengagement."

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, in a meeting the same day with Mr. Brown, praised Mr. Clinton's "wise" decision over MFN, saying "there is no excuse for us to confront with each other, but we only have the responsibility to develop our cooperation," Xinhua reported.

In a speech to businessmen earlier Tuesday Mr. Brown

indicated that among concerns on the commercial front was protectionism in China's trade regime.

"Protected industries will never lead the world," Mr. Brown said, pointing specifically to Beijing's reluctance to open up its service industry.

He criticised China's intellectual property protection laws as inadequate and lacking enforcement, warning such a situation not only made the Chinese market unattractive.

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Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 29/8/94	Tokyo Close Date 30/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5570	1.5348
Deutsche Mark	1.5773	1.5767
Swiss Franc	1.3327	1.3325
French Franc	5.3985	5.4130**
Japanese Yen	100.00	99.72
European Currency Unit	1.2090	1.2085**

\*\*USD Per NTU

\*\*European Opening + 1000 basis. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 30/8/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.75	5.00	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.25	5.75	6.56
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.75	4.81	5.12
Swiss Franc	8.93	4.06	4.25	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.62	5.75
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.12	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.54	5.72	6.12	6.54

Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding 1 J. D. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 30/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0705	1.0750
Deutsche Mark	0.4421	0.4450
Swiss Franc	0.5232	0.5258
French Franc	0.1295	0.1299
Japanese Yen	0.6975	0.7010
Dutch Guilder	0.3939	0.3959
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0438	0.0440
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

\*Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 30/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.040450	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1856	0.1872
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1910	0.1935
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.8000	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1919
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.3975	1.4950

Per 100

## Lockheed, Martin Marietta to merge in new mega-deal

NEW YORK (AFP) — Aircraft manufacturer Lockheed and defence contractor Martin Marietta are to merge in a \$10 billion mega-deal, the companies announced early Tuesday.

The new company will be called Lockheed Martin with annual sales of around \$23 billion and a payroll of 170,000 employees.

Lockheed and Martin Marietta said in their joint statement that the merger of their stocks would allow them to cut production costs while serving their government and civilian customers.

The deal is the latest in a series of mergers over the last few months between giant U.S. companies from computers to telecommunications to defence industries.

The end of the cold war has been sorely felt in the U.S. defence industries with the government slashing its ex-

penditure in a bid to reduce its huge budget deficit.

"The merger is the next logical step in the continued growth and prosperity of Lockheed and Martin Marietta and is consistent with our strong histories of delivering quality products," said Lockheed chairman and chief executive Daniel Tellep.

Under the terms of the agreement, Lockheed shareholders will get 1.63 shares of stock in the new company for each share they own. Shareholders of Martin Marietta get one new share for each share they have.

Mr. Tellep would be the chairman and chief executive of the new company, while Martin Marietta Chairman Norman Augustine would be president and would become chief executive when Mr. Tellep retires.

The Beethesda, Maryland-based Martin Marietta in April lost a bid to merge with the Grumman company when Northrop stepped in with a \$2.17 billion offer which topped Marietta's \$1.93 billion bid.

The Beethesda company had previously consolidated its business in the rockets division by buying General Electric's aerospace business and General Dynamics space systems interests.

Similarly, Lockheed, based in Calabasas, California, in 1993 purchased General Dynamics F-16 fighter aircraft business.

"Lockheed Martin will provide the opportunity to significantly reduce costs to the U.S. government and other customers, preserve critical elements of our nation's defence industrial base and strengthen our abilities to serve customers on a global basis," Lockheed's Tellep said.

During that period the government alone had the right to import cars en masse and did so only twice.

As a result, Syria is a haven for vintage and veteran cars which have been kept running whereas in many other countries they would have been scrapped or left to rot.

Recent economic laws and regulations allow some individuals to import cars but import duty, sometimes exceeding 400 per cent, makes this very expensive. Money also has to be paid in hard currency. A Mercedes 500 model 1994 costs around 32 million Syrian pounds (\$640,000 at the black market rate).

It was not immediately clear how much the Syrian assembled vehicles would cost.

But economic sources say the presence of U.S. companies in Syria shows that the investment climate is improving.

Around \$3 billion have been invested in projects in Syria since the issue of law number 10 in 1991 which encouraged Syrian and foreign investment.

Incentives include tax-free import of production tools and exemption from income tax on projects for up to seven years.

## U.S. motor giant plans assembly plant in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — U.S. motor giant General Motors (G.M.) is planning to build an assembly plant in Syria, the first of its kind in this socialist Arab state which has been starved of new cars for decades.

Nicola Antakli, one of the investors in the project, said Monday the plant would cost 5.93 billion Syrian pounds (\$141 million) and would make about 30,000 vehicles a year.

Industry Minister Ahmad Nezamuddin met representatives of the investors and G.M. Vice-President Wayne Brannon Monday and told them the project had been approved in principle.

The plant, which will start production within 36 months of the project winning final approval, would create 5,000 new jobs, Mr. Antakli said.

A contract has been signed with G.M. to provide the plant with all its machinery and spare parts and to supervise production and management.

Mr. Antakli said detailed studies would be submitted to Syria's Supreme Investment Council, headed by the prime minister, for final approval.

There are several major U.S. companies working in the oil industry in Syria, which is a key player in the

son, beating the Vancouver Canucks in the National Hockey League's championship. The Knicks lost to the Houston Rockets in the National Basketball Association finals.

Viacom, which has accepted the offer, put the New York arena, the sports teams and the MSG television cable company on the auction block shortly after winning control earlier this year of entertainment giant Paramount Communications Inc. in a costly fight against ITT Corp.

In the process of buying Paramount, Viacom had built up a huge debt of \$9.7 billion. Viacom said that it will use proceeds from the transaction to repay debt. The deal is expected to be completed in the fall.

Telecommunications Inc., the nation's largest cable TV operator, also bid for the Viacom properties.

Two analysts said the deal looked like plus for Viacom, and a big question mark for ITT Corp.

Sources said ITT and Cablevision said the companies will retain all of the Madison Square Garden properties and they have no plans to sell any of them.

ITT is already building a massive \$750 million hotel and casino in Las Vegas. It seized the landmark garden and the sports teams as prime entertainment assets.

Cablevision is the nation's fourth largest operator of cable television systems, with many of its customers in and around New York City and in the northeast United States.

## IMF to lend Senegal \$192m

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Monday it approved \$192 million in low-cost loans to help Senegal restore economic growth and reduce poverty after the devaluation of the CFA franc earlier this year.

The money, made available under the IMF's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, will be doled out over the next three years and will carry an interest charge of just ½ per cent.

The IMF said the franc devaluation has opened the way for Senegal to improve its competitiveness, with exports and tourism already showing signs of picking up.

"The medium-term strategy for 1994-97 aims at achieving both sustainable economic growth and financial viability, as well as returning to the pre-devaluation low inflation rate," the IMF said.

The cornerstone of the programme will be tight control of government finance and eventual elimination of the budget deficit. That will help contain and reduce the inflationary fallout from the devaluation.

"The government's strategy is expected to increase the standard of living of the population and reduce poverty," the IMF said.

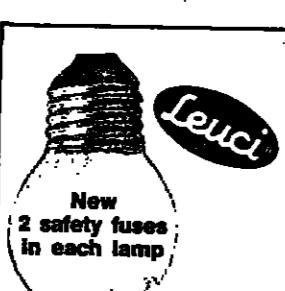
## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3660/70	Canadian dollar
1.5813/23	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
1.7750/60	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
1.3360/70	French francs	Italian lire
32.57/61	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
5.4108/58	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
159.71/72		
7.7527/27		
6.9350/00		
6.2590/40		
1.5328/38		
3.8625/386.75		

One sterling

One ounce of gold



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**Clarks**

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## Jordan Soccer Federation's first division championship starts today

By Alesha Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's top soccer teams will be back in action starting Wednesday when the first division soccer championship kicks off with 12 teams taking part.

The prestigious division groups champions Al Faisali, runners up Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Qadissieh, Al Ahli, Al Arabi, Al Ramtha, Al Jazreh and newcomers Al Karmal, Shabab Al Hussein, Al Jeel and Kufraoum.

Titleholders, Al Faisali, will be aiming to win their 26th title since the competition kicked off back in 1944 with only four teams — Al Urda, Al Ahli, Homenet and Al Faisali taking part.

The Kingdom's champions last year ended the season by adding quite a few records to Jordanian sports' archives.

Al Faisali won the title with a remarkable 57 goals cancelling the previous record of 47 by Al Ramtha in 1981.

They also maintained the most consistent form among

the 12 teams winning 17 of their 22 matches drawing in two and losing only 1-0 to Al Hussein.

During 1993, Al Faisali also won the Cup Winner's Cup and the Jordan Cup leaving only the Federation Shield to Al Ramtha.

The team's ace striker Jiryes Tadros also contributed with another record by winning the top scorer award with 19 goals.

Runners up Al Wihdat had a difficult season with a mutiny of veteran players. Their younger lineup of players nevertheless assured their club of a top standing though finishing with a comparative low 25-22 scoring record.

Al Wihdat, who last won the first division in 1991, are expected to give it all they've got this season. Their last major title was the Cup Winner's Cup in 1992.

Al Hussein and Al Qadissieh were the third and fourth teams and had good results throughout most of the competition last year.

Al Qadissieh's striker Mustafa Adam was second best

scorer with 16 goals. The team also had the best record in the second leg of the competition.

However, Al Hussein's players enter the competition with high spirits after their 2-1 win over Al Faisali last week when they won the first record in their club's history — the 1994 Federation Shield. Al Faisali had earlier secured the season's Cup Winner's Cup.

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scorer with 16 goals. The team also had the best record in the second leg of the competition.

The first division champion will receive JD 5,000, and runner up JD 1,500.

The Federation Shield and

Jordan Cup champions receive JD 2,000, while the Cup

Winners' Cup champions get JD 1,500.

The second division champions receive JD 1,000 and the third division winner get JD 300.

The prizes for age-group competitions have been lowered, while the top scorer award has been set at JD 250.

In the first week of the competition, newcomers Shabab Al Hussein meet Al Jeel, Al Ramtha play Al Arabi, Al Wihdat meet Al Jazreh, Kufraoum take on Al Qadissieh, Al Ahli clash with Al Faisali, and second division champions Al Karmal face Al Hussein.

**AL FAISAL'S 1ST DIVISION RECORD:** 1944, 1945, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993.

## IOC opens 1st congress in 13 years

PARIS (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) opened its first congress in 13 years Monday with France's Prime Minister giving the strongest suggestion so far that Paris will bid to host the 2004 summer games.

"I would like to declare before you today a wish: That our country has the desire to welcome, at the beginning of the next century, the summer Olympic games," Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said in a speech opening the 12th IOC Congress.

While he did not specify a city or a year, it has been widely rumoured that Paris will bid for the 2004 games. Paris had been a candidate for the 1992 summer games, which were awarded to Barcelona. Another French city, Albertville, hosted the winter Olympics the same year.

Earlier, five parachutists fell from a near-cloudless sky, bringing with them the Olympic flame lit in Greece last week. They landed in front of the Eiffel Tower as a French climber rappelled 120 metre (400 feet) down from the second level of the tower, carrying an Olympic flag.

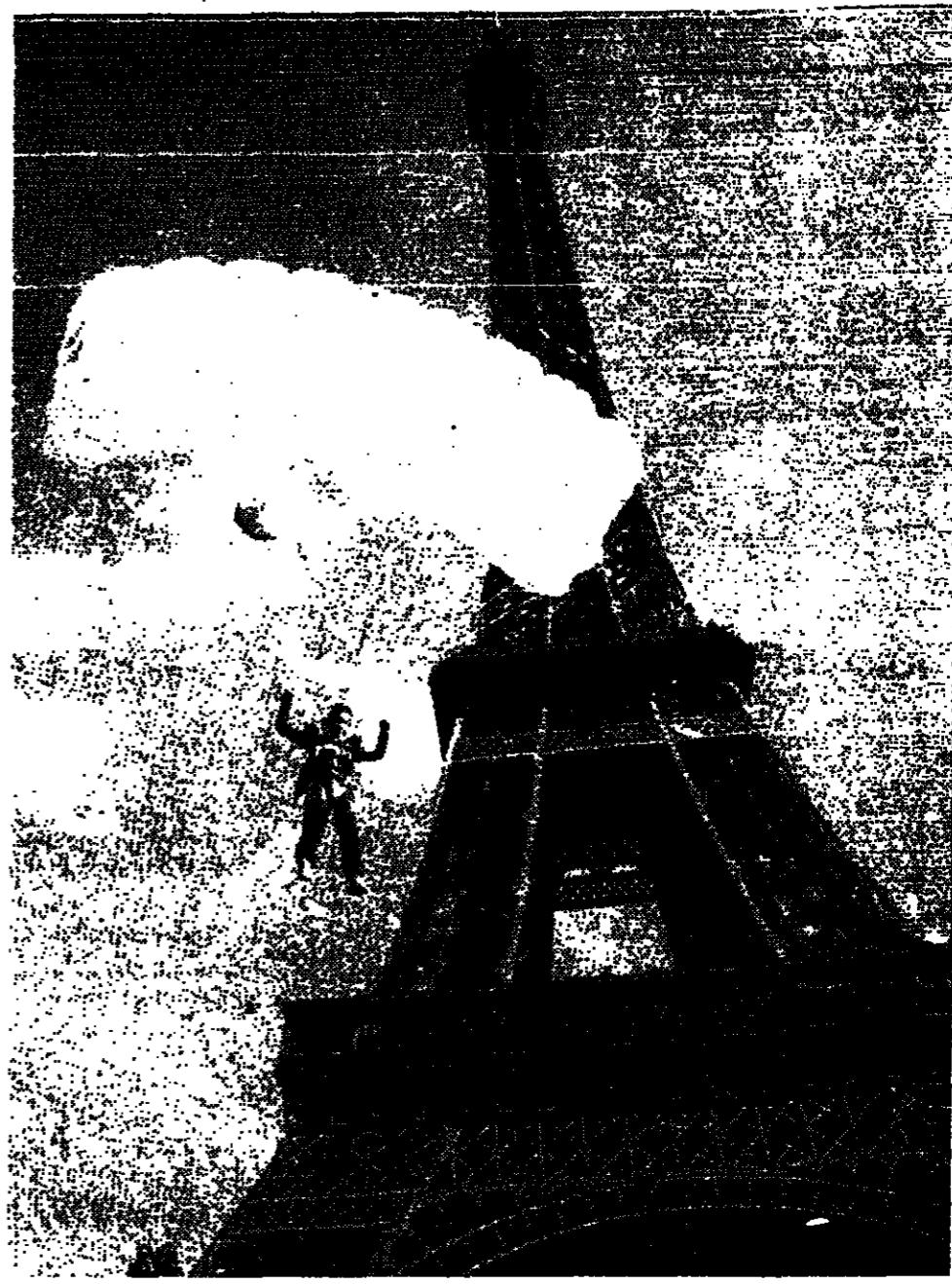
A relay of 33 champion athletes, led by two-time Olympic champion hurdler Edwin Moses, took turns carrying the torch through the streets of Paris, stopping briefly at the Sorbonne University where Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the modern Olympic movement 100 years ago.

"After a century, the flame is in some way returning to its starting point, from where it will set off again into another century," IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said at the Sorbonne.

The flame was then taken to the Bercy indoor sports arena, where Olympic 400-metre hurdles champion Marie-José Pérec lit a larger flame following a concert by Dee Dee Bridgewater and band leader Michel Legrand.

Balladur and other officials hailed the Olympic movement, celebrating its centenary at this congress.

"Already, the International Olympic Committee has proven its influence," said Balladur, who was a last-minute stand-in for ailing President François Mitterrand. "It has contributed to fighting against apartheid in South Africa. It supports national Olympic committees of countries at war. Time and again



A parachutist lands at the Eiffel Tower during a ceremony marking the opening of the XII week-long Congress (AFP photo)

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## Mansell returns to Formula One

LONDON (AP) — Former world champion Nigel Mansell is to return to Formula One racing with the Williams-Renault team for the last three races of this season.

Williams announced Tuesday that Mansell would rejoin the team for the final three grands prix after his commitments with the Newman-Haas Indy-car team in the United States are complete.

He will race the European Grand Prix at Jerez in Spain on Oct. 16, the Japanese at Suzuka on Nov. 6 and the Australian in Adelaide one week later.

The Williams team said it would make no further comment on its driver line-up for 1995.

Mansell has four races left in the Indy car season for the Newman-Haas team with whom he won the championship in his first season last year, and has said he is totally committed to those races before concentrating on Formula One.

He hinted at a return to Formula One with a guest appearance for Williams at the French Grand Prix July 3, and although he did not finish the race, team boss Frank Williams was impressed with his drive.

"I think Nigel enjoyed his race in France and the fact he is prepared to come back for the final three seems to confirm this," Williams said.

"Nigel never takes an easy option and coming to Formula One after two seasons in another series confirms this."

"He did a very good job for us in France and I am sure he will do the same in Spain, Japan and Australia."

He will partner fellow Briton Damon Hill as Williams' number two driver, relegating Scot David Coulthard to test driver.

Mansell won 27 grands prix



Nigel Mansell

for the Williams team and won the 1992 World Championship, turning to the Indy-car circuit the following year.

In all, Mansell has won 30 grands prix, winning three with Ferrari in a two year stint with the Italian team in 1989 and 1990.

He started his career with Williams in 1985 and returned after his session at Ferrari in 1991.

Despite speculation he would drive the last three grands prix when he drove in France, Mansell insisted that drive was a "guest appearance."

"I must add caution to people getting excited. It's just one appearance and we'll have to wait and see after that," he said at the time.

After the death of Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix May 1, Williams had been talking to Mansell to try to entice him back on the team, despite the differences of opinion which saw them split in 1992.

Williams would not comment on how much money

was involved in Mansell's return, although it was reported his comeback in France was worth \$1 million.

Carl Haas, co-owner of the Indy-car team with actor Paul Newman, had already said Tuesday Mansell would leave the team after the final race on the Indy-car circuit Oct. 9 at Monterey, Calif.

"Paul Newman and I have enjoyed our success with Nigel," Haas said in a statement.

"We became friends and we made history together... We thank Nigel for his contributions... and the worldwide attention he brought to the PPG Indy car world series. We all wish him the best of luck and success in the future, and I know our friendship will continue."

Newman-Haas, which also will lose second driver Mario Andretti, who is retiring at the end of this season, is expected to fill their driver seats with Michael Andretti, Mario's 31-year-old son, and 25-year-old Canadian Paul Tracy.

Williams would not comment on how much money

## Nigeria plans to stem defection of athletes

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria plans to stem the tide of its athletes defecting when they travel abroad for competitions, a senior sports spokesman said Monday.

Two Nigerians, badminton player Bisi Tamuyi and Augustine Idiabosa, a gymnast, disappeared during the Commonwealth Games in Canada at the weekend, joining more than 50 others who have failed to return home in the last three years.

"This latest incident will make us quickly introduce stiffer measures against our players whenever they want to travel abroad," said Nigerian Football Association

## UEFA gives green light to Albania, Georgia

BERNE (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) Monday gave the green light to Albania and Georgia to play their opening matches next week in the qualifying competition for the 1996 European championship.

UEFA had earlier extended a deadline to the two countries to give guarantees on player defections and security before allowing them to play their games in group seven.

So far only three defectors — members of Shooting Stars sports club football side in 1992 when five players vanished from Rome's airport — have returned home.

"We hope, in addition to these measures, that the constant education of the athletes on the negative consequences of defection, will also help stem the tide," Mgbolu said.

For only three defectors

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"We hope, in addition to these measures, that the constant education of the athletes on the negative consequences of defection, will also help stem the tide," Mgbolu said.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Ciller cancels trip to Cairo conference

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has cancelled a planned visit to the U.N. World Population Conference because of a tight schedule, the foreign ministry announced Tuesday. The announcement was made after a Cairo court Tuesday rejected an attempt by Muslim fundamentalists to have the U.N. World Population Conference cancelled, as Sudan joined Saudi Arabia in boycotting the controversial gathering. Turkey will now be represented by state minister Onay Alpago. "Turkey, which attributes particular importance to development issues, supports efforts aimed at improving the standard of living of children and mothers, their education and their access to medical services," a statement issued by the ministry said. Turkey will back any "development that respects the environment, and favours measures enhancing sexual equality, the development of family planning and health as well as the improvement of the situation of immigrants."

## Japan welcomes Israeli-PLO pact

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan on Tuesday said it welcomed an accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) granting Palestinians the right to administer basic services on the West Bank, the foreign ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that Japan expected the agreement covering education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation to be implemented as soon as possible. It said Tokyo hoped negotiations on an interim self-government will make further progress and that an election for the Palestinian Council would soon take place. "Japan intends to continue its assistance to the peace process by urging the parties concerned to move the peace negotiations forward, participating in the multilateral talks, and extending assistance to the Palestinians," it added. Palestine has pledged to provide \$25.75 million to help finance Palestine's administrative expenses.

## Israel frees Jewish extremist

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel set free Tuesday the spokesman for the anti-Arab Kach movement who was arrested in the aftermath of the Hebron mosque massacre, the authorities announced. Noam Federman served six months in administrative detention as the Israeli government cracked down on extreme right wingers who praised the murder of 29 Palestinians by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town on February 25. Mr. Federman told state radio after his release that he would resume the fight "against the gang which is running the Israeli government." The government outlawed Kach on March 13 and declared it a "terrorist" movement. Mosque killer Baruch Goldstein had spent years as a Kach militant. Three other Jewish extremists remain in administrative detention, a renewable emergency measure which had been applied only to Palestinians until the mosque slaughter.

## Iran cracks counterfeiting ring, arrests 18

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have smashed a ring of counterfeiters in western Iran, arresting 18 people including a Turkish national, a newspaper reported Tuesday. Hamshahri, quoting an intelligence official in Hamedan province, said the suspects forged and distributed fake money in several provinces. One of those arrested was a Turkish citizen who smuggled fake money into the country, it said without identifying the foreign suspect. Several members of the group had links to the main armed opposition group, the Iraq-based People's Mujahideen, the paper added.

## Sudanese minister talks to Zimbabwe over rebels

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe and Sudan, at odds over alleged support by Harare for anti-Khartoum rebels, held talks on Tuesday to smooth relations, Zimbabwean official sources said. "Zimbabwe wants to set the record straight that it is not supporting militarily the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) as alleged recently," one source told Reuters. The talk between Sudan's Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih and his Zimbabwean counterpart Nathan Shamwari took place after foreign press reports said Harare was arming the SPLA, fighting Khartoum's Muslim-led government since 1983. The SPLA, drawn from the largely Christian and animist south, has diplomatic representation in Zimbabwe, which is generally thought to be sympathetic to the rebels' cause.

## Iraq blames U.S. for Cuban refugee crisis

NICOSIA (AFP) — U.S. expansionism is to blame for the wave of Cubans breaching the Florida Straits on makeshift rafts to head for the United States, Iraq said Tuesday. The Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriya charged that the United States had "incited the Cubans to flee (...) without being capable of giving them refuge." The island "won't bow to its colonialist and expansionist policy," the paper said according to the official Iraqi agency INA, monitored in Cyprus. More than 17,000 Cubans have been picked up at sea this month, the biggest wave since the 1980 Mariel boatlift in which more than 125,000 Cubans arrived in the United States over five months. Iraq has been under a U.N. oil and trade embargo since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The United States has strongly opposed lifting the sanctions in a bid to force Baghdad to comply with U.N. resolutions on dismantling its weapons of mass destruction and to recognise Kuwait's borders and sovereignty.

## Israeli residents protest collaborators moving in

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of residents from Jaffa demonstrated Monday against the resettlement of hundreds of Palestinian collaborators in the town by Israeli authorities. Residents said the defence ministry had authorised 500 Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to seek to live in the town south of Tel Aviv, after they were threatened for collaborating with Israeli authorities. Demonstrators, who included Israeli Arabs, carried banners which read: "We are not a rubbish dump." Ronnie Milo, mayor of Tel Aviv, told Israeli radio that the presence of too many collaborators in Jaffa could "disturb the residents' peace." Mr. Milo recalled that a Palestinian had killed one of his Israeli neighbours there in June, allegedly to win back approval of friends and family. Around 1,000 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities have been killed since the outbreak of the intifada in the occupied territories in December 1987, according to an army toll.

## Former Aristide allies detained in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Three people including two former members of the security contingent of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide were detained in the Haitian capital, informed sources said Tuesday. The sources said those detained Monday included Philippe Michel and Jean-Marie Thomas, who helped coordinate security for Mr. Aristide during his 1990 election campaign and after he took office in February 1991 until the September 1991 coup. Also detained was Thomas' wife, who is also Michel's wife. The reasons for the arrests were not immediately clear. The authorities are allowed to detain people for 15 days before deciding whether to charge or release them. The detentions came a day after Father Jean-Marie Vincent, a priest and close adviser of Aristide, was gunned down as he returned home.



German President Roman Herzog and his wife Christiane welcome Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to Villa Hammerschmidt Monday (AFP photo)

## Syria criticises early empowerment pact

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria criticised Tuesday a new accord that gave Palestinians some autonomous powers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The government newspaper Tishrin said in an editorial that Monday's accord, which gave the Palestinians control over education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation, legitimised Israel's occupation.

It said Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine National Authority that is running autonomous zones in the Gaza

Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, was in a "real predicament."

To help him "early authorities" to run much of the Palestinian daily affairs in the rest of the West Bank. Monday's agreement was "an attempt to alleviate the popular Palestinian pressure on him."

Tishrin said the new agreement unveiled the Palestine Liberation Organisation's "deteriorating state and its full subjugation to the Israeli will."

"Arafat's approval of this

agreement means that the PLO has adopted the Israeli stand, which stipulates that the land belongs to Israel and the PLO runs the affairs of some Palestinian inhabitants in the light of continuing Israeli occupation."

On the other hand, a radical Palestinian group opposed to the PLO-Israeli deal on Tuesday condemned Mr. Arafat's plans to change the Palestinian charter.

The Fatah Uprising, led by Colonel Abu Musa who rebelled against Mr. Arafat in 1983, said the PLO chief was

no longer representing Palestinians and that his decisions were not binding.

"Arafat's establishments lost their legitimacy when he approved a deal with Israel which did not provide Palestinians with the minimum of their rights," the statement said.

It said Fatah Uprising will reject calls for the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Gaza and said Mr. Arafat was responding to the enemy's plans to eliminate the Palestinian cause."

Israel's case now sounds plausible to many countries, including some permanent members of the Security Council," says a Western diplomat in Baghdad.

Baghdad regularly complains that countries that want the four-year-old sanctions continued will not say in clear terms what more is required before it can resume vital oil exports and trade normally with the world.

Washington, it says, has rebuffed all Iraqi overtures for a dialogue because it hopes the trade embargo will destabilise the government of President Saddam Hussein.

Diplomats say Iraq is now signalling that it will not accept new conditions from the Security Council unless it gets a guarantee that the result will be the lifting of sanctions.

"Baghdad feels it has given everything for the sake of exporting oil again, but at the same time it sees no light at the end of the tunnel," one diplomat said.

"Without guarantees, I do not think Baghdad will accept any more conditions."

The Security Council has been unanimous in insisting that Baghdad recognise Kuwait within its newly demarcated borders, putting to rest the root issue — Iraq's August 1990 conquest of its small but wealthy neighbour.

The United States, however, is determined to hold out on a host of other issues.

It demands that Baghdad halt what it describes as "serious human rights violations."

It also wants Iraq to contribute to peace and stability in the region, which one diplomat sees as an overt call on Baghdad to join the Middle East peace process.

Iraq firmly denied several recent press reports that it was making secret contacts with Israel.

It has, however, allowed the United Nations to destroy weapons banned under the Gulf war ceasefire terms and accepted an intrusive U.N. monitoring to ensure that the weapons programmes will not be revived.

It believes that both China and France are now sympathetic to its case.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Riyad Al Qaisi has been in Russia this week. Iraq's official newspaper says he "found Moscow had a sincere desire ... to have the sanctions on Iraq lifted."

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, who functions as Iraq's foremost international envoy, flew to Morocco this month carrying a message from President Saddam to King Hassan.

## Iraq battling to ease sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is striving to muster as much support as possible before the U.N. Security Council reviews its crippling Gulf war trade sanctions in mid-September.

Senior Iraqi officials, roaming the world to plead their case, have been getting a hearing in some places — but not in the United States, which holds a Security Council veto.

"Iraq's case now sounds plausible to many countries, including some permanent members of the Security Council," says a Western diplomat in Baghdad.

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## COLUMN

## S. Africa faces wave of pornography

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa faces a wave of pornography as draconian apartheid-era censorship is lifted, a government official says. "There's a glut of this stuff (pornography) on world markets... they're looking for new avenues and set an opening here," said Braam Coetzee, who as publications director has helped to watch over the nation's morals for the past 14 years. "We are already seeing things streaming in from overseas... people think everything is free here now," said Mr. Coetzee.

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## Pope wages war on U.N. population forum

By Jean-Louis De La Vaissiere

Agence France Presse

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II has launched a personal crusade against what he sees as a threat to traditional family structures posed by the upcoming U.N. World Population Conference in Cairo.

The week-long conference, which opens on Sept. 5, is based on the principle of boosting social development by stabilising population growth.

But while the Pope does not deny the problem posed by soaring population in some poor countries, he has expressed "painful surprise" at the conference's proposed solutions, outlined in the draft resolution.

He has fired off documents, messages, speeches and sermons to explain his "concerns" about the draft document on population control.

And the Vatican, which is sending 16 experts to Cairo, has said it may refuse to sign the final conference resolutions if changes are not made.

The forum's draft resolution calls for the prevention

of unmarried pregnancies and reducing abortion rates, but recommends that women should be given reliable information on abortions and that the operation should be safe.

The Vatican immediately accused it of condoning abortion, extra-marital sex and extra-marital sex.

"We are hearing surprising commentaries, to say the least, on the population issue," the Pope said Sunday.

"In reality the future of the family and society itself is at stake."

"It would be a grave mistake if, at the Cairo conference, we are willing to accept a sexuality stripped of ethical references in response to the problem of rapid population growth, instead of aiming to promote a culture of responsible procreation."

The Pope's main argument is against abortion. The sanctity of life from the moment of conception has been his most consistent rallying cry throughout his 16-year papacy.

In a letter to Nafis Sadik, secretary general of the conference, the Pope condemned the draft resolution for not setting out in black and

white that "abortion should not in any case be promoted as a method of family planning."

The previous conference in Mexico in 1984 included that in its resolution.

The Vatican also voiced concern at a reference to "sexual health" in the draft resolutions, which it said unfortunately seemed to involve "a right to safe, efficient, accessible and acceptable abortion."

"We cannot defend positions which accept abortion as an essential part of the politics of health," the Pope said.

The Pope has evoked the risk of third world adolescents turning increasingly to abortion, thanks to its legalisation, without securing their parents' consent.

He said he was "worried by the Pope's main argument is against abortion. The sanctity of life from the moment of conception has been his most consistent rallying cry throughout his 16-year papacy.

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